

RECEIVED
FEB 25 1998
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In The Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming.
MM Dkt. No. 95-176.

I am a deaf twenty four year old man living in St. Louis, Missouri and my name is Paul Meyer. I believe that the Federal Communications Commission should promptly establish an emergency captioning access information system to ensure the safety and awareness for all deaf and hard of hearing people living in the United States, regardless of where they live, in cities or in the farmlands.

High and low revenues per channel, and several other factors, namely money, should not be a factor in determining the safety for all citizens living across America, therefore all citizen should receive the same emergency warning regardless of where they are, and who they are when emergency occurs.

What are the deaf people are going to do when the sky suddenly turn black, and how will we know the severity of a storm coming our way if we just merely turn on the television and just see a weatherman pointing here and there on a map explaining the path of a storm coming our way in minutes. How are we going to protect ourselves, our families if we have no idea how severe a storm is going to be, and then the storm finally arrives, our lives will have more degree of a danger than of a hearing family living next door to us because they have heard the warnings and have taken the necessary precaution to protect themselves in this situation. What if this deaf family was your son's family or a nephew's family, then would you want his family to have same kind of pre-warning of a storm that his neighbors have, or have their lives in great danger since they were unable to obtain any warning from television since lack of emergency captioning access?

Lastly, we have heard from the news, of a train, or a tanker overturning, and causing toxic fumes to spread to a nearby city or a town, which in this case, often occurs in a small town setting. If a deaf person or a family does not know that there is an order of evacuation being announced on television related to the toxic fumes from a train crash, this greatly puts the person/family of a deaf person in great danger as well. But if there were an emergency captioning access available in

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

this time of peril, then the Deaf would have enough time to evacuate the location per other hearing people in their location and escape ahead of the fumes.

Or in other emergency situations, such as a blizzard/hurricane arriving at a moment's notice, or what if there was a major car accident on a major highway being announced live, then we could know right there and then, and not get stuck on the highway rather than not knowing and finding out right there and then on the highway. Or of a highway closing due to bad weather. If we knew ahead of time, then we would not have to endanger our lives driving in bad weather for miles and miles, and arriving to find out that the highway has been closed for several hours, and then having to turn back to where we had come from.

When I was in college in Tulsa, Oklahoma, they told me, if you think there is going to be a bad weather, or a tornado warning, or something of that nature. What we needed to do was get in our car and drive to this deaf center where they would hoist a flag atop their building announcing the arrival of a tornado or other related storms, which was absurd in a lot of ways.

By having an emergency captioning access available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty five days a year, our lives would be much safer and would give us a lot more time to take the necessary precaution to protect our property and our lives ahead of the "unknown" that is unfolding in front of us rather than dealing with it right there and then when it actually comes.

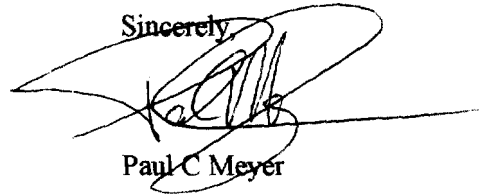
Emergency captioning access should be made available anywhere in the United States regardless of cost, revenue and feasibility according to the Federal Communications Commission because what if I go on vacation in Maine, or in Hawaii, in lieu of an impending storm arriving, I would want to know what kind of a storm, how severe the storm will be, how long the warning will last, and so forth, and take the necessary steps to protect my life rather than knowing the unexpected and endanger my life more that way. Some of you may question, sure there are neighbors for me to go next door and ask them the condition of an impending emergency, but

what if I am alone in the country where the next door neighbor lives three or four miles away and or what if the next door neighbor isn't home at the time of an emergency ?

In this land of the freedom where all citizen should be treated as an equal and to have an equal access to all things available regardless of what they are. It is time that this priority of having an emergency captioning access be made available soon as possible to ensure the fairness of obtaining and gathering the proper information in a time of emergency regardless where we are at the moment in order to protect our lives and that of others in this crucial situation so that we remain unscathed when this emergency passes us by.

An insight to the Federal Communications Commission board, that is, if you take a quick action and formulate an action to speed up the emergency captioning access and make this your number one priority, hundreds and thousands of lives those of the deaf and the hard of hearing people would be saved, and have less danger of facing them in a time of emergency than they will have faced in their lifetime. And they have less stress to deal with emergency with more preparation as crisis "arrives" rather than with a big question mark on their forehead when the moment comes unspoken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul C Meyer', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Paul C Meyer

9222 Castle Ragh Ct.
St. Louis, Mo. 63132